



BRIEFING NOTE TO THE MINISTER

STATUS UPDATE ON ENGAGEMENT: INDIGENOUS COMPETITION OF THE SMART CITIES CHALLENGE

(For Signature)

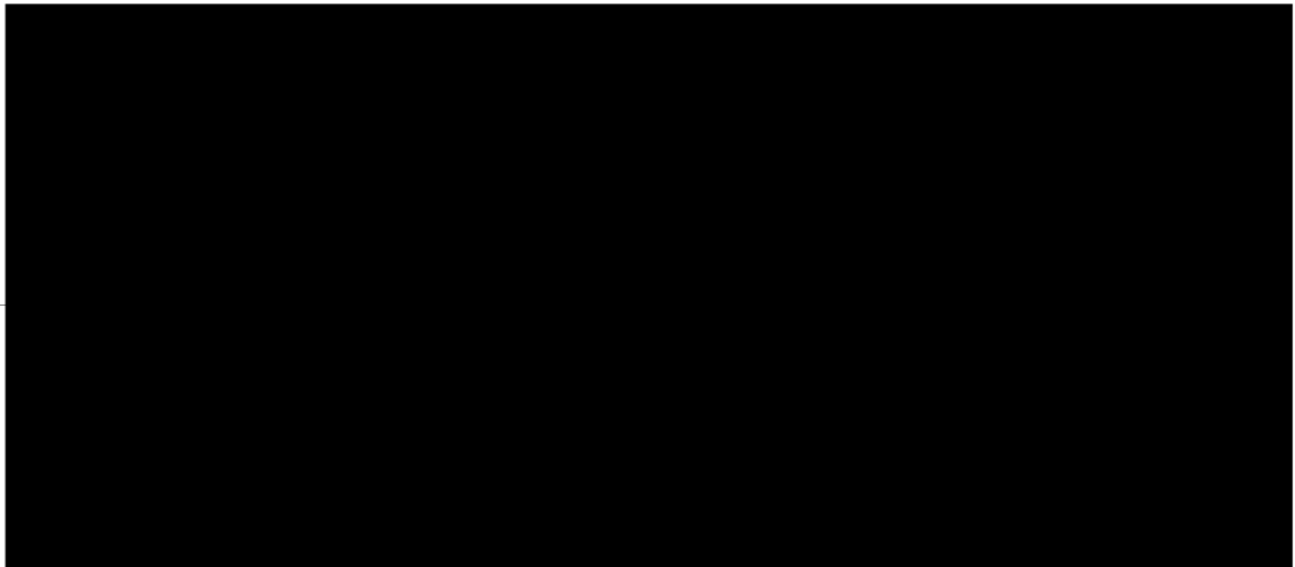
ISSUE

- The purpose of this note is to provide you with a recommendation on moving forward with the design and implementation of the Indigenous competition of the Smart Cities Challenge following discussions with Indigenous partners.

BACKGROUND AND STATUS UPDATE

- Upon the launch of the Smart Cities Challenge competition in November, departmental officials moved quickly to engage National Indigenous Organizations (NIOs) on the Indigenous specific competition. Departmental officials have since had meetings with Indigenous Services Canada and each of the NIOs: Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Métis National Council (MNC) and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK).

Status of NIO discussions



Current competition

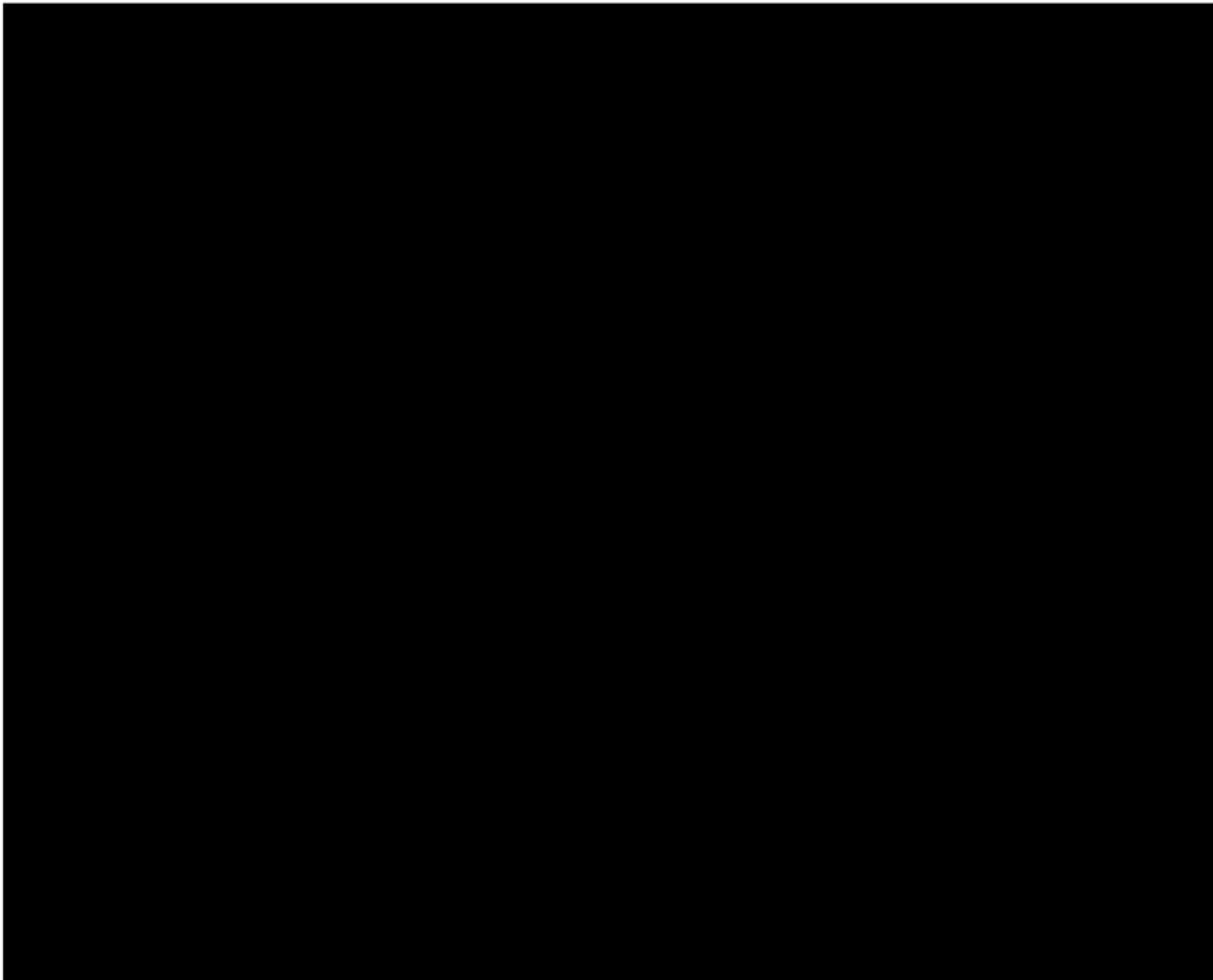
- As a result of early outreach and communication, we are seeing interest from Indigenous communities in the current competition which is open to all communities. We are anticipating up to five or six proposals from First Nation communities. This is an early indicator that some Indigenous communities are interested and prepared to take part in this type of challenge, event to compete with non-Indigenous communities.

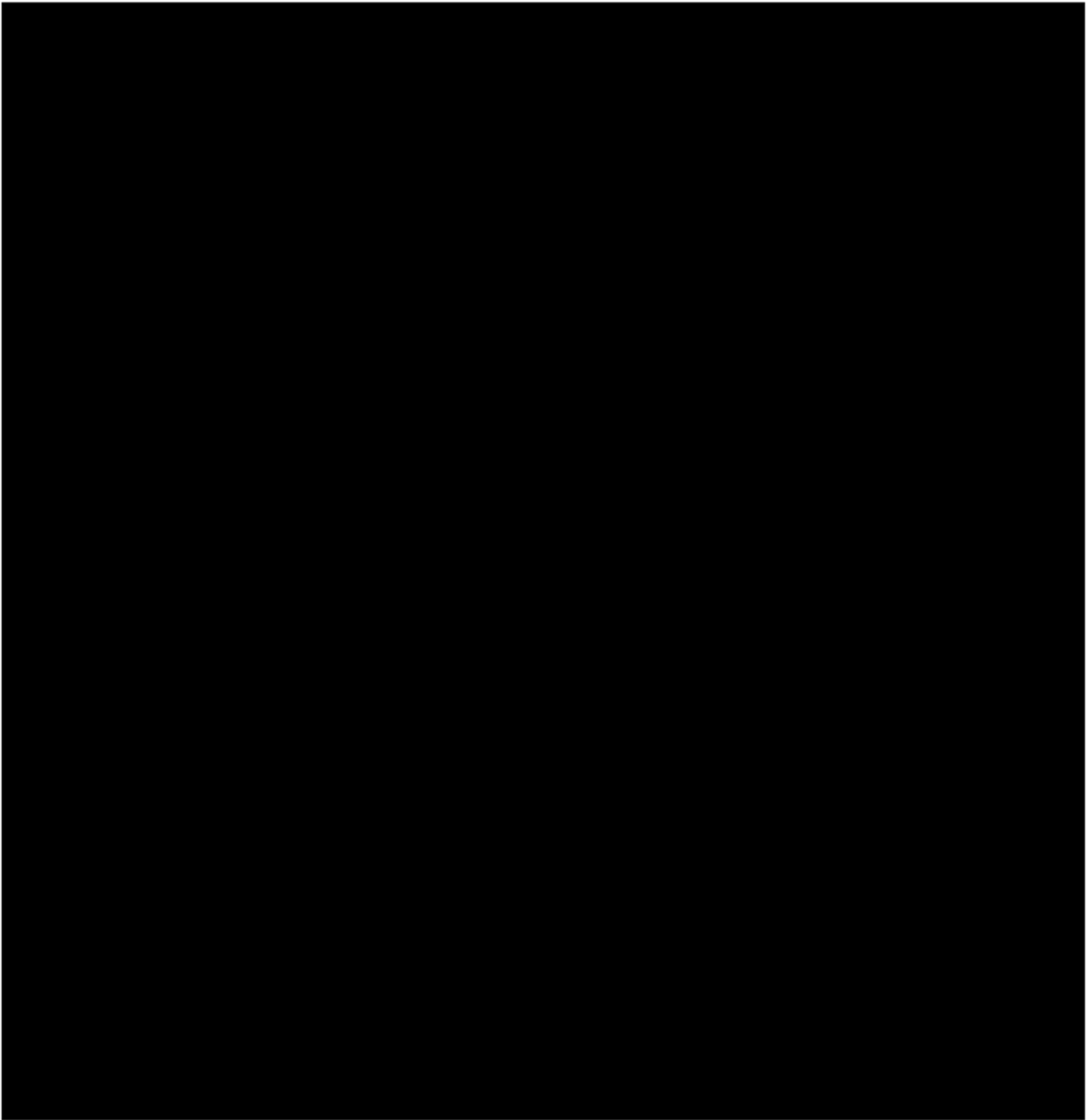


Department of Indigenous Services Housing Innovation Challenge

- The Department of Indigenous Services is in the early planning stages of designing a Challenge as part of the Impact Canada Initiative. Infrastructure Canada is cultivating a partnership to align efforts wherever possible as respective approaches and plans evolve.

Options and Considerations

- The objective is to develop an approach that actively encourages and supports Indigenous communities to successfully participate in the challenge. Successful participation is defined as having funding flow to Indigenous communities under the Challenge, as well as having communities share best practices on how to leverage data and technology to solve shared or common issues.
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RECOMMENDATION AND NEXT STEPS

- [REDACTED] we will share an overview of the design features of the Indigenous competition, along with milestones and dates for its announcement and implementation, with your office.

Kelly Gillis
Deputy Minister
Infrastructure and Communities

Date

____ I approve. ____ I do not approve. ____ For discussion.

Amarjeet Sohi, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

Date